REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-29 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 17 and 24 being independent. Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 15 and 16 are amended herein and Claim 29 has been newly added. The amendments to Claims 1, 4-7 and 11 return the claims to their form as presented in the Amendment filed July 21, 2004. New Claim 29 recites the features of previously cancelled Claim 3. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

The Office Action indicates that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants note that the certified copies of the priority documents were submitted on February 22, 2005, and were acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed April 14, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an indication that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016249 (Kitamura et al.). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kitamura et al. Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1-26 of U.S. Application No. 10/664,872, in view of Kitamura et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a recording medium for ink including an ink receiving portion for receiving an ink and holding a coloring agent in the ink. The recording medium includes an increasing region, in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent and holding the coloring agent is present with such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth of the ink receiving portion, in a position apart from an outermost ink recording surface of the recording medium for ink.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 15, as amended, is directed to a sheet member for a recording medium for ink and for forming an ink receiving layer containing at least a pigment for holding a coloring agent of an ink and a binder for the pigment, comprising a substrate and an undercoat layer provided on the substrate. The sheet member has an increasing region, in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent and holding the coloring agent is present in such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth, as viewed from a surface on which the ink receiving layer is to be formed.

Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to teach or suggest important features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Kitamura et al. is directed to an ink jet recording material having a pigment, a binder and at least one ink receiving layer formed on a substrate. Kitamura et al. discloses that the recording material may include at least one ink receiving inside layer formed on the substrate and an ink receiving outermost layer laminated on the outer surface of the ink receiving inside layer. At paragraph [0133], Kitamura et al. discloses that the substrate may be a paper sheet that may be coated with a cationic resin. The Examiner suggests that this treatment should inherently

cause a gradient of a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent because most ink jet ink dyes are anionic and because Applicants disclose achieving the gradient of reactive substance by coating the substrate with a cationic material prior to coating with the undercoating. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Paragraph [0133] of Kitamura et al. states "[i]n the size-press step of the paper-forming procedure, the surface strength and sizing degree of the paper sheet can be controlled by coating or impregnating the paper sheet with starch, polyvinyl alcohol and/or a cationic resin." Applicants submit that such a treatment process does not provide the diffused state of the present invention (see, e.g., p. 8, lines 5-21 and p. 12, line 29 through p. 13, line 8 of the substitute specification) because this treatment process forms a uniform state non-diffusely. In the present invention, the substrate (paper sheet) is subjected to the cationizing treatment after being subjected to size adjustment with a sizing agent. *See* p. 9, lines 16-20 of the substitute specification ("Prior to the cationizing treatment of the substrate, if necessary, the substrate may be subjected to size adjustment with a sizing agent"). Applicants submit, therefore, that because the treatment process disclosed in Kitamura et al. does not provide the diffused state of the present invention, a recording medium produced according to Kitamura et al. would not have an increasing region, in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent and holding the coloring agent is present with/in such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth, as recited in Claims 1 and 15. Thus, Applicants submit that Kitamura et al. fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are requested.

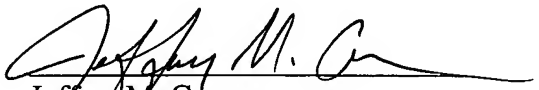
Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1-26 of Application No. 10/664,872, in view of Kitamura et al. Since the cited claims are not yet patented, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be held in abeyance, and be reconsidered in view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, above, regarding Kitamura et al.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 15. Dependent Claims 2, 4-14, 16 and 29 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Connor
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 57,409

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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